

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Jan SPAENJERS, et al.

Attorney Docket Q66990

Appln. No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: November 09, 2001

For: APPARATUS FOR THE TRANSMISSION AND/OR RECEPTION OF DATA, AND
METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THIS APPARATUS.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

3. (Amended)Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the switching device associated to an input and the switching device associated to the corresponding output are coupled to each other and wherein the spare terminating board comprises a device (20₂, 28₂) adapted to test the continuity of the coupling of these switching devices to this terminating board.

4. (Amended)Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein one terminal (16₁) of each 2x2 switch is coupled to the corresponding input or output, two other terminals (16₃, 16₄) are

coupled to the terminating boards and the last terminal (16₂) is used for coupling to another 2x2 switch.

5. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the switching devices are of the optical type.

6. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the switching devices and their control means are all installed on a same applique panel (42), the terminating boards are all installed on the same terminating panel (46) and the coupling between the switching devices and the terminating boards are realized on a back panel (44).

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one spare terminating board (80) is provided for at least two active terminating boards (82, 84, 86) and the switching devices (14₁, 14₂, 14₃; 14'₁, 14'₂, 14'₃) for the inputs and outputs of the links are connected in series towards the spare terminating board.

9. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein, in case of failure of an active terminating board, the second control means (26₁, 41) of the switching devices are such that this failed active terminating board is connected as a spare terminating board.

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein all links are adapted to carry data with different priorities and wherein the second control means (41) are further adapted to

decide, in case of link failure and/or terminating board failure, that the link carrying the data having a highest priority will take over.

14. (Amended)A method according to claim 12, comprising the step of coupling to each other the switching device associated to an input and the switching device associated to the corresponding output and the step of testing the continuity of the coupling of this switching device to this terminating board.

15. (Amended)A method according to claim 13, comprising the step of coupling one terminal (16₁) of each 2x2 switch to the corresponding input or output, coupling two other terminals (16₃, +16₄) to the terminating boards and using the last terminal (16₂) for coupling to another 2x2 switch.

16. (Amended)A method according to claim 12, comprising the step of installing the switching devices and their control means on a same applique panel (42), the step of installing all terminating boards on the same terminating panel (46) and the step of realizing the coupling between the switching devices and the terminating boards on a back panel (44).

17. (Amended)A method according to claim 12, comprising the step of providing one spare terminating board (80) for at least two active terminating boards (82, 84, 86) and the step

of connecting in series the switching devices (14₁, 14₂, 14₃; 14'₁, 14'₂, 14'₃) for the inputs and outputs of the links towards the spare terminating board.

19. (Amended)A method according to claim 12 wherein, in case of failure of an active terminating board, the switching devices are controlled in such a way that this failed active terminating board is connected as a spare terminating board.


21. (Amended)A method according to claim 14, wherein all links are used for carrying data with different priorities and wherein, in case of a link failure and/or a terminating board failure, the link carrying the data having a highest priority will take over.

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REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the switching device associated to an input and the switching device associated to the corresponding output are coupled to each other and wherein the spare terminating board comprises a device (20₂, 28₂) adapted to test the continuity of the coupling of these switching devices to this terminating board.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to ~~claims 2 and 3~~ claim 2 wherein one terminal (16₁) of each 2x2 switch is coupled to the corresponding input or output, two other terminals (16₃, 16₄) are coupled to the terminating boards and the last terminal (16₂) is used for coupling to another 2x2 switch.

5. (Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein the switching devices are of the optical type.

6. (Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein the switching devices and their control means are all installed on a same applique panel (42), the terminating boards are all installed on the same terminating panel (46) and the coupling between the switching devices and the terminating boards are realized on a back panel (44).

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein one spare terminating board (80) is provided for at least two active terminating boards (82, 84, 86) and the switching devices (14₁, 14₂, 14₃; 14'₁, 14'₂, 14'₃) for the inputs and outputs of the links are connected in series towards the spare terminating board.

9. (Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein, in case of failure of an active terminating board, the second control means (26₁, 41) of the switching devices are such that this failed active terminating board is connected as a spare terminating board.

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1 wherein all links are adapted to carry data with different priorities and wherein the second control means (41) are further adapted to decide, in case of link failure and/or terminating board failure, that the link carrying the data having a highest priority will take over.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 ~~or 13~~, comprising the step of coupling to each other the switching device associated to an input and the switching device associated to the corresponding output and the step of testing the continuity of the coupling of this switching device to this terminating board.

15. (Amended) A method according to ~~claims 13 and 14~~ claim 13, comprising the step of coupling one terminal (16₁) of each 2x2 switch to the corresponding input or output, coupling two other terminals (16₃, +16₄) to the terminating boards and using the last terminal (16₂) for coupling to another 2x2 switch.

16. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 12-15~~ claim 12, comprising the step of installing the switching devices and their control means on a same applique panel (42), the step of installing all terminating boards on the same terminating panel (46) and the step of realizing the coupling between the switching devices and the terminating boards on a back panel (44).

17. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 12-16~~ claim 12, comprising the step of providing one spare terminating board (80) for at least two active terminating boards (82, 84, 86) and the step of connecting in series the switching devices (14₁, 14₂, 14₃; 14'₁, 14'₂, 14'₃) for the inputs and outputs of the links towards the spare terminating board.

19. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 12-18~~ claim 12 wherein, in case of failure of an active terminating board, the switching devices are controlled in such a way that this failed active terminating board is connected as a spare terminating board.

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21. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 14-22~~ claim 14, wherein all links are used for carrying data with different priorities and wherein, in case of a link failure and/or a terminating board failure, the link carrying the data having a highest priority will take over.